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LETTER DATED 24 DECEMBER 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF QATAR TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you that the Islamic Group at the United Nations, at its urgent meeting held on Friday, 18 December 1998, considered the situation in Iraq.

The Islamic Group adopted a statement on the matter the text of which I am presenting for your perusal (see annex).

I would be grateful if this letter, and its annex, could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nassir Abdulaziz AL-NASSER
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Qatar
to the United Nations
Chairman of the Islamic Group

98-40497 (E) 281298

Annex

Statement on the situation in Iraq adopted by the Islamic Group at the United Nations on 18 December 1998

The Islamic Group at the United Nations in New York expresses its grave concern about the current military strikes against Iraq as well as its deep concern and preoccupations in the face of this serious development and its repercussions on Iraq and on the region in general.

The Islamic Group further reiterates that the resolution of the current crisis can be achieved not through unilateral military action, but rather through a constructive dialogue which would guarantee the implementation of the Security Council resolutions and safeguard at the same time the sovereignty, territorial integrity and security of Iraq, and the safety and dignity of its people. The Islamic Group also lays a particular emphasis on the imperative need for all parties to act within the framework of international legitimacy.

The Islamic Group launches an urgent appeal for an immediate cessation of the military action against Iraq and for a return to the dialogue approach under the auspices of the Security Council. In this regard, the Islamic Group calls on all parties, including Iraq, to continue to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions.

The Islamic Group welcomes the initiatives undertaken by the United Nations Secretary-General in the matter and wishes to encourage him to continue these efforts.